

Abstract

This invention deals with an architecture for a multimedia peer-to-peer home network which allows the simple definition
5 of peer groups, or zones, where each peer is capable of automatically identifying whether other peers are members of the same group, or of another group, by using group labels, and where each peer may freely cooperate with the other peers of the same group, or with peers of previously specified other
10 groups, e.g. exchange information or share resources. The architecture aims to map an atmosphere of trust existing between users to a technical system, namely their respective home networks.

Using this architecture, it is e.g. possible that users who
15 are trusting each other may give each other access to their own home network, or parts of it. Advantageously, the invention simplifies network operation by not requiring the user to have special networking knowledge.